

LIBRARY

SKELTON & BROTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

---

R E P O R T

for the Year 1948

of the Medical Officer of Health

W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,

D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,

SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.(RET)

---

---



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3008958x>

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
SKELTON & BROTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith my report to the Local Sanitary Authority for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

**SECTION I**

**Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area**

**Population.**

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the District in the mid-year 1948, is 12,770, as compared to an estimate of population in the mid-year 1947 of 12,530.

**General Statistics.**

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures :—

Area of the District in acres	....	15,309
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books		3,763
Rateable Value	....	£43,818
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	£172

**Social Conditions.**

The District consists of an industrial belt surrounded by agricultural and moorlands rising to nearly 1,000 feet, while it is bordered to the north by cliffs attaining a height of 300 feet above the sea.

Ironstone mining remains the general industry in the District itself. Factories for the light industries are coming into operation ; apart, however, from key workers they employ at present mostly female labour. The Iron and Steel Works at Skinningrove, though just outside the District, employ some 600—700 of those resident in the District. During 1948 the industries have maintained full employment, a factor of great importance to the well being both physical and mental of the population.

It is one hundred years since the first medical officer of health was appointed to any area. In that one hundred years great advances have been made in creating a healthier material environment, in the betterment of the physical condition of the people, in the removal from our midst of sudden catastrophies due to the acute infections and in a marked reduction in the insidious ravages of tuberculosis. But against this background of gain there appear certain sinister features. There is an increase in those diseases that are related to the reactions, not only of the individual's body, but also of his mind, to his total environment. I refer specifically on a later page to cardiovascular disease ; there are, however, other diseases and their incidence is not shown in the mortality tables. I get the impression that a goodly proportion of the housewives suffer from mild but definite psycho-neuroses. The men appear preoccupied. Never have more people travelled than travel to-day and never have I seen people travel less joyfully. Has the joy and the zest of life passed from us ?



**TABLE 1.**  
**Vital Statistics.**

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births	....	146	124	270
Legitimate	....	139	115	254
Illegitimate	....	7	9	16
Still Births	....	3	2	5
Legitimate	....	3	1	4
Illegitimate	....	—	1	1

**Deaths of Infants uner 1 year of age**

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total	....	8	1
Legitimate	....	6	1
Illegitimate	....	2	—

The number of births registered being 270 gives a birth-rate of 21.1 per 1,000 of the population compared to 17.9 of England and Wales. Nine infants under the age of one year died giving an infant mortality rate of 33 per 1,000 births compared to the rate for England and Wales of some 34.

**TABLE 2.**  
**Analysis of Infantile Mortality, 1948**

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total deaths under 1 year
Convulsions										
Acute Enteritis....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Broncho-pneumonia ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Prematurity ....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Gastritis										
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro										
Enteritis ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bronchitis										
Marasmus ....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Marasmus ....	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	3	1	—	—	4	2	2	—	1	9

**TABLE 3.**  
**Vital Statistics**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH**

	MALE	FEMALE
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever           ....	—	—
Scarlet Fever                     ....	—	—
Whooping Cough                 ....	—	—
Diphtheria                      ....         ....	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. Sys. ....	3	5
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases             ....	1	—
Influenza                     ....         ....	—	—
Measles                       ....         ....	—	—
Ac. Poliomyel. & Enceph. ....	—	—
Ac. inf. Enceph. ....	—	—
Cancer of mouth and gullet (M)	—	—
uterus (F)	—	4
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	—
Cancer of Breast               ....	—	2
Cancer of all other sites       ....	9	7
Diabetes                       ....         ....	—	1
Intracranial Vascular lesions	6	7
Heart Diseases                 ....	28	24
Other diseases of Circ. System	3	2
Bronchitis                   ....         ....	5	2
Pneumonia                   ....         ....	—	1
Other Resp. dis.               ....	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years       ....	1	—
Appendicitis                  ....	—	—
Other digestive diseases       ....	2	2
Nephritis                     ....         ....	5	4
Puerp. and post. abort. sepsis.	—	—
Other maternal causes       ....	—	—
Premature births               ....	2	—
Congen. malform., birth injuries and infantile diseases ....	2	1
Suicide                       ....         ....	1	—
Road Traffic accidents         ....	3	1
Other violent causes         ....	3	—
All other causes               ....	7	3
ALL CAUSES                   ....	<hr/> 87	<hr/> 70



The deaths of residents were 157 giving a death-rate of 12.2 per one thousand population. Of these 157 deaths no fewer than 70 were attributed to diseases of the heart and blood vessels, i.e., cardiovascular disease. In comparison with this, indeed the Captain of the death of men, tuberculosis and other infections, and even cancer, appear relatively feeble slayers. During the last hundred years Public Health, hand in hand with improving social conditions, has done great things in making life safer from catastrophies due to the infections and from the insidious ravages of tuberculosis. These gains will be largely nullified if active and experienced people in the fifties or early sixties are to be stricken down in increasing numbers by cardiovascular disease. We do not know why this increase is taking place. We may surmise, but surmise does not take the place of knowledge. It should be one of the functions of medical officers of health, if they were less burdened with administrative details, to investigate such problems, for with their knowledge of local populations they are in a unique position to do so.

## **SECTION II : Infectious Diseases.**

As Table IV below shows, 1948 was a year free from significant outbreaks. Of the 4 cases of diphtheria notified 1 on admission to hospital was found not to be suffering from clinical diphtheria. With immunization available to all, diphtheria should no longer appear in the notifications. The number of children immunized during the year was 114 in the age group 0—4, and 26 in the age group 5—14 ; in addition 258 school children previously immunized received each a reinforcing dose. Since diphtheria is most fatal in the age group 0—4, immunization should be performed in infancy, preferably between the ninth and twelfth month of life. The success, therefore, of any scheme is to be judged by numbers immunized in infancy. The figure 114 is certainly better than 70 in 1947, but it is only 42 per cent of the live births in the District. This figure is disappointing in view of the advice and education given both verbally and by means of cards and leaflets by the staff of the Local Health Authority and through films displayed in the local cinemas and through the national propaganda of the Ministry of Health. Apparently 60 per cent of the parents, whether through apathy or distrust, disregard these appeals. In fact distrust is the formidable obstacle to the education of the public in the ways of healthy living, distrust of medical activities arising from primal unconscious fear of the doctor as the modern representative and descendant of the medicine man of the tribe, distrust usually rationalized under the guise of other motives.

The 3 pneumonias notified can be ascribed correctly to 1948 having been a non-influenzal year.

In July I arranged to keep the Health Visitors informed of each case of measles and whooping cough notified in their particular area ; the home is then visited by the Health Visitor. A final visit is paid at the end of three weeks and the parent advised if any sequelae are present such as cough, running ears, or sore eyes. Often one of these conditions is found to have commenced after an attack of measles or whooping cough. This arrangement makes satisfactory use of the notification received.

**Tuberculosis.** There were 5 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1948, the same number as in 1947. Of these, 2 were males aged 57 and 31 respectively, and 3 were women, aged 21, 23 and 39 respectively. No cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified. As soon as a notification is received, the health visitor is informed. She reports on the social conditions so that recommendations for such action as is possible can be made.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1948**  
(other than Tuberculosis)

**TABLE IV.**

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Cases Admit'd Hospital
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	—	1	2	5	2	3	—	1	—	—	12
Diphtheria	4	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	4
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	19	1	2	—	2	2	3	2	4	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	26	6	4	3	2	4	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—



## SECTION IV : Milk Supplies.

No milk samples were taken during the year.      1 dairy was improved.

## SECTION V. Water Supplies.

I took a sample of the water supplied to the Village of Charltons on 19th May, 1948, and submitted it to both chemical and bacteriological examination. I give the results in the Table below.

**TABLE V.**

### Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance : Bright with a few particles of mineral debris.

			Turbidity (Silica Scale) ....	less than 5
Colour (hazen) ....	Nil		Odour ....	Nil
Reaction pH. On the acid side				
of neutrality ....	6.8		Free Carbon Dioxide ....	32
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	340		Total solids, dried at 180°C.	230
Chlorine in Colonies ....	17		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	140
Hardness : Total 150	Carbonate (Temporary) 140		Non-carbonate (permanent)	10
Nitrogen in Nitrates ....	0.0		Nitrogen in Nitrites ....	Absent
Free Ammonia ....	0.000		Oxygen absorbed in 4hrs. at 27°C.	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia ....	0.000		Residual Chlorine ....	Absent
Metals :      Iron ....	0.03		Other metals absent.	

### Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	0	9	12
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in .....	Absent from .....	100 ml.....
Bact. coli. ....	Present in .....	Absent from .....	100ml.....
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present in .....	Absent from .....	100 ml.....

These figures show a water of the highest degree of organic and chemical purity.

I repeat emphatically that the water supply to the District will remain generally inadequate in quantity until the Scaling Scheme is begun and completed.

The water supply to Low Farm, Gerrick, was improved in November, 1948, by the owner cutting off the communication with a pond liable to pollution by bovines. Otherwise the position of several isolated dwellings and farms remains most unsatisfactory. Early in the year I and the sanitary inspector, Mr. R. Barry, visited sources of possible supply to some of these of wholesome water from the moors, took gaugings of the amounts of flow, met and advised the owners or their representatives. But so far, as far as I am aware, the position in each case remains unchanged.



## **SECTION VI : Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

3 of the samples of milk procured in the District by the Inspectors of the North Riding County Council and sent to the County Analysts were found to be deficient in milk fat.

Again I would like to take this opportunity of stressing the necessity for the frequent washings of the hands and the scrubbing of the nails of food handlers and the adequate washing of crockery and cutlery in frequent changes of hot water.

Food handlers who find themselves to be suffering from infections even apparently of a trivial kind such as skin sores, sore throats, ear discharges, diarrhoea, should consult their doctor telling him the nature of their work. My advice is available to the doctor and the facilities of the Public Health Laboratory are at hand for bacteriological investigations.

## **SECTION VI : Housing.**

During the absence, owing to sickness, of the sanitary inspector, Mr. Barry, from the 17th March until the taking up of his duties as temporary sanitary inspector by Mr. J. Patterson on the 1st September, I largely performed myself the duties of sanitary inspector. I thus acquired an intimate knowledge of much of the housing in the district. Three features of the housing forcibly struck me : firstly, the deplorable condition of disrepair of much of the properties ; secondly, the presence of pan closets in some built up areas ; thirdly, in some areas inadequate water supply by means of standpipes. The first of these conditions is being remedied by means of a house to house inspection which I began in Lingdale and Mr. Patterson has vigorously continued. Many repairs have been placed in the hands of the builders by owners as the result of the ~~informal~~ notices served. Owing to the shortage of labour, however, the work is proceeding slowly. The conversion of pan closets to water closets on any considerable scale must await a sufficient supply of water to the district while the replacement of standpipes by a piped supply to the dwellings awaits also, I suppose, the fructification of the Scaling scheme. Overcrowding exists on a considerable scale, but no complete or recent records are at hand. I hope that Mr. Patterson will be able in due course to bring the figures up to date for the guidance of the Council.

**TABLE VI.**  
**HOUSING STATISTICS**

New houses erected in 1948 :

(a) By private enterprise	....	....	....	....	7
(b) By the Council	....	....	....	....	72
					<hr/>
					79

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	....	....	523
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	....	736
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	....	....	....	....	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	....	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	....	....	....	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	....	....	198

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

(1) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	....	....	....	....	3
--	------	------	------	------	---

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	....	....	70
(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :					
(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	69
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....	....	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	....	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :					
(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	27
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....	....	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	Nil



**Table VI—Housing Statistics—continued.**

D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	Nil

**SECTION VII : Sanitary Circumstances of the District.**

I give below a table of the sanitary work done during the year by Mr. R. Barry till 17th March, by myself between 17th March and 31st August, and by Mr. Patterson from 1st September.

**TABLE VII.**

**Nuisance Inspections.**

Total No. of Inspections made for Nuisances only 415 (Not including Housing Inspections)

Nuisances found	....	278	Total needing abatement	352
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	....	74	Abated during year	.... 191
			Outstanding at end of year	167
				==
Notices served, informal	....	278	Complied with	112
Notices served, Statutory		30	Complied with	27
Total Number of summonses or other legal proceedings	....		Nil	

Regulated Building Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of inspections made	General Conditions	Legal Proceedings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses	None	—	—	—	—
Houses let in lodgings	.... None	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards	.... 1	1	31	Defects existing at end of year	—
Tents, Vans & Sheds	.... 2	—	1	—	—
Offensive Trades	.... None	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	.... 9	9	71	Defects existing at end of year	—



**Section VII—Table VII—continued.**

**Milk Supply**

Total Number of Cowsheds inspected during the year ..... 24

**Meat Inspection**

Total inspections ..... 84

Number of surrenders of unsound food ..... 15

Total Weight ..... 263½ lbs. of Meat.

**Other Foods.**

Total Inspections ..... 15

Total Weight of unsound food 4½ lbs. Butter.  
Tinned Veal Loaf, 1 lb. 9 ozs.  
112 lbs. of Fish (cod and skate).

The licensee of the Slaughter House at Charltons at the end of the year, did not renew the licence. The carcasses of 74 horses were inspected at this slaughterhouse.

**SECTION VIII : Factories Act, 1937.**

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service regarding factories in the district.

**TABLE VIII.**

**1. Inspections** for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	16	6	1	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .....	11	5	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3 (Building Sites)	3	—	—
TOTAL	30	14	1	—

Section VIII.—Table VIII—*continued.*

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness .....	1	1	—	—
TOTAL .....	1	1	—	—

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the warm encouragement during the year of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and the cordial co-operation of the Clerk of the Council, Mr. F. Wilkinson. Mr. J. Patterson, temporary sanitary inspector, began duties on the first September, and has helped in every way.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTON,

23rd May, 1949.







